International Relations 365:
Politics and Democracy in Latin America

Fall 2015

When: M & W 5:00-6:20 p.m.                     Professor Gerardo Munck
Where: VKC 150                                      E-Mail: munck@usc.edu
Office Hours: M 2:00-3:20 p.m.                     Office: VKC 326A
or by appointment

Course Description
The course focuses on Latin America’s experience with democracy and seeks to offer: 1) a survey of the region’s experience with democracy and other types of political regime, 2) a detailed discussion of the trends in Latin American politics over the past 30 years, and 3) a sense of the challenges Latin America has still not managed to tackle successfully.

The course will seek to meet these objectives by offering both broad overviews of the region and in-depth analyses of a set of countries. The selected countries are those that are economically dominant in the region (Brazil and Mexico) and that exemplify certain common patterns (Argentina, Chile) or notable alternatives (Cuba and Venezuela). Though an emphasis will be placed on events in these countries since the 1980s, the historical context of recent developments and external influences (in particular, the role of the United States) will also be considered.

Requirements
The basic requirements include five quizzes (25% of the overall grade), an in-class mid-term exam (35%), and an in-class final exam (40%).

With regard to the quizzes, we will have six quizzes and I will drop the lowest one. I have included provisional dates below in the syllabus, but these may change slightly. The exact dates will be announced in class.

The dates of the mid-term and final exams are also noted below in the syllabus.

If the schedule of a quiz or in-class exam conflicts with a religious holy day, please let me know and I will arrange for you to take it some other time.

Readings and Class Power Points
All the readings are accessible through the Blackboard, under “Readings.” Below you will see which reading we will discuss and you are responsible for reading for each meeting of the class.

In addition, I will be introducing additional information, especially on most recent developments, in class. The power points of each class will be uploaded to the Blackboard after each class—you will find them under “Power Points”—and you are responsible for mastering the information in these power points that go beyond the readings.
Topic Outline and Reading Assignments

Meeting # 1 (8/24). Introduction

I. Issues and Trends in Latin America

Meeting # 2 (8/26). The Pre-History and Origins of Countries

Meeting # 3 (8/31). Models of Economic Development

Meeting # 4 (9/2). Political Regimes and Democracy
- “Dynamics of Political Transformation,” pp. 376-93, in Thomas Skidmore, Peter Smith and James Green, Modern Latin America (2010).

Meeting # 5 (9/7). Labor Day: No Class

Meeting # 6 (9/9). The Role of the United States

-Quiz # 1 (9/14)

II. The Southern Cone

Meetings # 7, 8, 9 & 10 (9/14, 9/16, 9/21, 9/23). Argentina: Early Democracy, Populism, Harsh Military Authoritarianism, and Unstable Democracy

-Quiz # 2 (9/28)

Meetings # 11, 12, 13 & 14 (9/28, 9/30, 10/5, 10/7). Chile: Early Democracy, Socialism, Harsh Military Authoritarianism, and Stable Democracy

- Quiz # 3 (10/7)

Meeting # 15 (10/12). Mid-Term
III. The Two Regional Powers

Meetings # 16, 17 & 18 (10/14, 10/19, 10/21). Brazil: Late Democracy, Military Electoral Authoritarianism, and Democracy with Flaws
- Quiz # 4 (10/26)

Meetings # 19, 20, 21 & 22 (10/26, 10/28, 11/2, 11/4). Mexico: Revolution, Civilian Electoral Authoritarianism, and Violent Democracy
- Quiz # 5 (11/9)

IV. Socialism in the Caribbean


- Quiz # 6 (11/30)

Meeting # 28 (11/25). Thanksgiving Break: No Class

V. Conclusions

Meeting # 30 (12/2).

*** Final Exam: Wednesday, December 9, 4:30-6:30 p.m. ***
Academic Conduct and Support Systems

Academic Conduct

Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in SCampus in Section 11, Behavior Violating University Standards https://scampus.usc.edu/1100-behavior-violating-university-standards-and-appropriate-sanctions/. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in SCampus and university policies on scientific misconduct, http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct/.

Discrimination, sexual assault, and harassment are not tolerated by the university. You are encouraged to report any incidents to the Office of Equity and Diversity http://equity.usc.edu/ or to the Department of Public Safety http://capsnet.usc.edu/department/department-public-safety/online-forms/contact-us. This is important for the safety whole USC community. Another member of the university community – such as a friend, classmate, advisor, or faculty member – can help initiate the report, or can initiate the report on behalf of another person. The Center for Women and Men http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/cwm/ provides 24/7 confidential support, and the sexual assault resource center webpage sarc@usc.edu describes reporting options and other resources.

Support Systems

A number of USC’s schools provide support for students who need help with scholarly writing. Check with your advisor or program staff to find out more. Students whose primary language is not English should check with the American Language Institute http://dornsife.usc.edu/ali, which sponsors courses and workshops specifically for international graduate students. The Office of Disability Services and Programs http://sait.usc.edu/academicsupport/centerprograms/dsp/home_index.html provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange the relevant accommodations. If an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible, USC Emergency Information http://emergency.usc.edu/ will provide safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued by means of blackboard, teleconferencing, and other technology.